

# Alabama Board Of Physical Therapy

Volume 5 Number 2

August 2001

## **Board Members:**

- Beth Curry Dozier, PT...Birmingham
- Chair
- Olivia J. Box, PTA...Trussville
- Secretary
- Sonja K. Farrell, PT...Huntsville
- Treasurer
- Herbert R. Calliouet, PT...Birmingham
- Member
- Cathy T. Sanford, PT...Huntsville
- Member

## **Legal Counsel:**

- Stephen N. Dodd
- Assistant Attorney General

## **Board Staff:**

- Kathryn Brown...Executive Director
- Sheila Wright...Administrative Asst.



Board

Meeting  
August 29, 2001

Alabama Board of Physical Therapy  
100 N Union Street Ste. 627  
Montgomery AL 36130-5040

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334-240-3288 Fax  
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kbrown@pt.state.al.us

## **2001 Renewals**

Sheila and I take pride in processing your renewals as quickly as possible. Our new computer program definitely allows us to move with greater speed and has brought about many changes.

Last year most of you sent your renewals (with correct fees and documentation) in with time to spare. That works best for all of us! Some of you waited until the last minute, and not all by choice, to send your renewals. We still processed those on time when everything was acceptable. When renewals are unacceptable for various reasons, such as personal checks, incorrect amount, lack of continuing education certificate, or incomplete application form, we must return those renewals. Sometimes renewals are lost in the mail.

If you haven't been in a habit of doing so, this year start a new practice of renewing your license in September. It expires October 1st each year anyway! It's true that the law allows you to renew your license on or before November 1st, but why take

that chance, unless you have to, by waiting. The board takes disciplinary action against licensees working past November 1st with an expired license.

If you work for a company that pays your renewal fee and sends your documentation with the fees to us, it is your responsibility to see that the company has ALL of your required documentation to send and knows the correct fee for your renewal. It's even more important when several renewals are sent and paid with one check, because just one incorrect fee or lack of documentation can hold up all of the renewals.

It seems that I always stress the negative when it comes to renewals, but the problems are minimal with as many licensees as we have. We really appreciate that fact, and thank you.

Kathryn Brown



Sonja has some good news concerning our new website!

## **Have You Visited Our New Website?**

The STATE OF ALABAMA BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY has a new website. The site has access to updates about the board, licensing, rules & regs., forms, roster, newsletters, links, and complaints, as well as frequently asked questions.

We are currently in the process of determining the

"appropriate" number of newsletters to be mailed out, versus utilizing the new technology of our website for all newsletters. The board welcomes your comments and wants to hear from you. Let us know what you think. As always, the website is a continual work in progress, with updates occurring regularly.

So stay tuned to see what's new.

Sonja Farrell, PT

<http://www.pt.state.al.us>



## Questions & Answers

Q & A: Can a PRN LPTA work in a department without an RPT listed on the PTA's license?

Yes, the LPTA can work in a department as long as there is a PT responsible for directing and supervising the LPTA when he/she is delivering physical therapy services to patients.

Q & A: What are the legal ramifications involved if the supervising PT listed on the PTA's license currently lives out of state?

The board currently does not require a PT listed on the PTA's license renewal form to reside in the state of Alabama. However, all physical therapy interventions provided to patients by an LPTA must be under the direction and supervision of the PT who is currently supervising the delivery of that care to the patient(s).

Q & A: What responsibility should an employer take to assure that LPTAs who work PRN have a designated supervising RPT listed on their license?

The board does not have jurisdiction over an employer unless he/she is a licensed PT and/or PTA. Employers have the responsibility to formulate policies and/or procedures that are within state and federal regulations and that best meet the needs of their facility.

Q & A: Can a licensee's LPTA credentials be used on an "information sheet" to be sent to OB/GYN physicians and their patients regarding an aquatic fitness program being offered for pregnant women?

When developing or implementing such a program, the licensee is advised to use caution to ensure that any services provided are not interpreted as being "physical therapy". Without additional qualifications in the aquatic fitness arena, the PTA may be putting his/her license at risk.

Questions addressed to the board should concern professional liability issues such as unprofessional conduct or incompetence, not the facility's legal liability. Any LPTA, whether working full-time, part-time or PRN must have a PT who is designated as being responsible for directing and supervising the LPTA when he/she is providing physical therapy interventions to patients.



*"Do you  
Have a  
Question  
For the  
Board?"*

## CONTINUING EDUCATION CORNER

It's that time of year again. Along with our renewal of license form we need to **ATTACH** a copy of the **BOARD APPROVED** certificate of the CEUs earned since October 1 of 2000.

PTs and PTAs who graduated within the last year will not be required to submit certificates but **MUST** renew their licenses.

CEUs are important to our maintaining professional growth and development. There are a number of places to obtain the required 10 hours for PTs or the 6 hours for PTAs. Each day opportunities for continued learning come in the mail. Most areas of the state have local educational opportunities, as does the Alabama PT Association. APTA sponsors educational offerings, even in the form of home study courses. Please take the time to inform yourself with pertinent information to expand your practice skills!

Cathy Sanford, PT

## ALABAMA BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY DISCIPLINARY INVESTIGATIONS AND ACTIONS

The Board has a three-tier system of discipline. The lowest level of sanction involves the placing of a *letter of admonition* in a licensee's permanent file. The intermediate level of sanction involves the licensee entering into a *guilty plea agreement* with the Board, either prior to or following a formal or informal hearing. A licensee who pleads guilty may be required to pay a fine, or be subjected to a period of license suspension, or both. The highest level of sanction involves a finding of guilt after a *formal administrative hearing*. This level of sanction includes a fine and/or license suspension, and may include license revocation.

Disciplinary actions are matters of public record. In addition to being included in a licensee's permanent file, disciplinary actions are also published in the Board's semi-annual newsletter. Licensees who either plead guilty, or who are found guilty after either an informal or formal hearing, have their names and the nature of their discipline published in the Board's newsletter. With a letter of admonition, only the nature of the disciplinary action is published.

In keeping with this policy, the following is a list of the Board's disciplinary actions since the last newsletter:

<u>Case No.</u>	<u>Name</u>
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01-03-13	Louis Cabral, PTA
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Allegation:	practicing as a physical therapist assistant without a current license, caused by failure to timely renew license
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Disposition:	licensee plead guilty to one count of practicing as a physical therapist assistant without a license, and fined \$100
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## NEWSLETTER

ALABAMA BOARD OF PHYSICAL  
THERAPY  
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Phone: 888-726-9743  
334-242-4064  
334-242-3603

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Email: kbrown@pt.state.al.us  
swright@pt.state.al.us

## Have you moved?

If you have moved and not notified the board, please do so as soon as possible. This will help the board in keeping a current address so that when we mail out our renewals and newsletters you will receive yours. If we do not have your current address, it is your responsibility to renew on time, and have correct documents and fees.

Thanks,  
Sheila

## DELEGATE REPORT:

The Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) held its Annual Meeting attended by Sonja Farrell and Jeannie Box, in Scottsdale, Arizona April 20 - 23. The three-day meeting consisted of several quality educational programs for attendees and the Delegate Assembly of the Federation that met April 23. Ms. Farrell, serves on the Federation's Education Committee. As the Board's elected Delegate, I was responsible for attending all educational programming and participating in discussion of issues debated by the 2001 Delegate Assembly.

One of the meeting's highlights for me personally dealt with the Council of Board Administrator's proposed New Board Member Orientation Manual. This Manual is being developed for distribution to provide guidance to persons who are newly appointed (or elected) to boards regulating the profession of physical therapy. Once completed, this Manual should prove to be invaluable to Alabama licensees interested in serving on the State Board.

Issues debated by the Delegate Assembly focused primarily on foreign-trained physical therapists, the Federation's role in evaluating the credentials of physical therapists who are educated outside the United States and the involvement of the Foreign Credentialing Commission on Physical Therapy (FCCPT) in that process. Among the items of business adopted by the Delegate Assembly was a resolution to have the FCCPT review and revise their credentialing criteria as appropriate given the Commission on Physical Therapy Education's (CAPTE) mandate for physical therapists to be educated at the master's level by 2001. Currently, foreign-trained PTs must meet criteria equivalent to a bachelor's degree in physical therapy.

Additional information regarding either the CBA's Board Manual or the FCCPT's criteria for non-US physical therapists can be obtained by visiting the Federation's web site <http://fsbpt.org> or by contacting them by phone - 703/299-3100, or in writing - 509 Wythe Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314.

Olivia Jean Box, PTA, Secretary